

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 AID-05 CPR-01 /076 W

----- 047972

O 100945Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4205
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 30

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FOR OAU SUMMIT

1. PRESIDENT MACHEL AND 22-MAN PARTY INCLUDING MINISTERS ARMANDO GUEBUZA (INTERIOR), JOSE OSCAR MONTEIRO (PRESIDENCY), AND RUI BALTASAR (JUSTICE) DEPARTED FOR OAU MEETING AT 0830, JANUARY 9. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MOST OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS SAW HIM OFF.

2. HOUR OF PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE WAS HASTILY SCHEDULE. THIS AND AT LEAST TWO OTHER MISSIONS WERE NOT REPRESENTED, PRESUMABLY FOR SAME REASON; APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF COMMUNICATION BREADKOWN, WE DID NOT RECEIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DEPARTURE CEREMONY. WE HAD RECEIVED CALL AT RESIDENCE EVENING JANUARY 8 THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PART OF NOTIFICATION PROCESS.

3. UPON LEARNING OF DEPARTURE AT 0945 JANUARY 9, I CALLED HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL AVAILABLE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY; AFRICA AND NEAR EAST DIVISION HEAD ALBERTO SITHOLE, WHO ALSO A MEMBER OF FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND CONVEYED TO HIM ORALLY SUBSTANCE OF FOLLOWING NOTE SENT LATER JANUARY 9 TO MINISTRY. (PROTOCOL CHIEF TEMBE ALSO LEFT WITH PRESIDENT).

4. QUOTE.. AND HAS THE HONOR TO EXPRESS ITS REGRET THAT,
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BECAUSE IT DID NOT RECEIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION, IT WAS NOT RE-

PRESENTED AT THE DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SAMORA MOISES MACHEL FOR ADDIS ABABA.

LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 8, 1976, A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE MINISTRY WAS RECEIVED BY A SERVANT AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. WHO HAD NOT YET RETURNED HOME. THE SERVANT WAS NOT TOLD THE SUBJECT OF THE CALL. UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE RESIDENCE AT ABOUT 1830 HOURS, THE CHARGE TELEPHONED THE MINISTRY. THE OPERATOR ON DUTY (FYI FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ONLY ONE TELEPHONE LINE) KNEW NOTHING OF A CALL TO THE EMBASSY AND SAID HIS PREDECESSOR, WHO MAY HAVE KNOWN, HAD LEFT AT 1800 HOURS. THE CHARGE ASKED HIM TO INVESTIGATE. AFTER A FEW MINUTES, THE OPERATOR INFORMED THE CHARGE THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE MATTER, WHOSE SUBJECT HE STILL DID NOT KNOW, HAD BEEN RESOLVED AT 1500 HOURS THAT AFTERNOON. A SMALL MATTER HAD IN FACT BEEN TAKEN PLACE OF AT THAT HOUR WHEN AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE PICKED UP SOME PAPERS AT THE MINISTRY. THE CHARGE THEN ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OR ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL, BUT WAS TOLD THAT THE ONLY OTHER PERSON AT THE MINISTRY WAS THE PERSON WHO HAD TOLD THE OPERATOR THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED. NO OTHER CALL WAS RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY.

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE WAS CONVEYED ORALLY TO THE CHARGE TO MR. ALBERTO SITHOLE OF THE MINISTRY AT 1000 HOURS ON JANUARY 9, AS SOON AS THE EMBASSY LEARNED OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE CEREMONY. UNQUOTE.

5. SITHOLE SAID HE REGRETTED COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN AND APOLOGIZED FOR IT. HE SAID MINISTRY HAD UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON JANUARY 8 EXPECTED PRESIDENT TO LEAVE AFTERNOON JANUARY 9, BUT THAT HE SUDDENLY DECIDED LEAVE IN EARLY MORNING INSTEAD.

6. SPOT-CHECK OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO DID ATTEND DEPARTURE CEREMONY REVEALED THAT AT LEAST NIGERIAN AND SWJZI WERE ALSO MISSING AND POSSIBLY BULGARIAN (ONE COM "THINKS" HE SAW LATTER). WITH US, THIS WOULD TOTAL 25 PERCENT OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. PRESS ACCOUNT OF DEPARTURE REPORTED THAT "NUMEROUS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES"

ATTENDED CEREMONY.

7. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE HIMSELF HAD LEARNED OF PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE "BY CHANCE" AS PHONE RANG WHEN HE RETURNED BRIEFLY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESIDENCE FOR FORGOTTEN ITEM BEFORE LEAVING FOR EVENING.

8. I DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO INFORM MINISTRY IN DETAIL SO THAT OUR ABSENCE, IF NOTICED BY GPRM, IS NOT THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DELIBERATE ON OCCASION OF PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FOR IMPORTANT AND CONTROVERSIAL MEETING. I ALSO HOPE INCIDENT WILL HAVE EFFECT OF IMPROVING MINISTRY'S COMMUNICATION WITH CORPS.

9. WE ARE MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS TO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT MISS
BEING INFORMED IN EVENT CORPS IS TURNED OUT FOR PRESIDENT'S
RETURN.

10 FOR ADDIS ABABA: THIS MESSAGE FOR BACKGROUND IN EVENT MATTER
IS TOUCHED UPON IN ANY WAY DURING OAU MEETING.
ARENALES

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Message Attributes

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